CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:
acquiring an access request for a production device;
retrieving an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a document;
presenting the interface to a client; and
returning to the production device production options selected through the interface.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises intercepting an access request directed to the production device.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises redirecting the access request.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of acquiring and retrieving are performed on a network device other than the selected production device.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising, before the act of returning, placing production data in a queue, the production data representing selected production options and access instructions for the document, and wherein the act of returning comprises returning the production data from the queue.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing production data in the queue.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing an interface having controls for displaying the status of the production device.

Attorney Docket No.
10007645-1

1 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising obtaining and verifying
2 credentials and wherein the act of presenting comprises presenting the interface
3 only upon verification of the credentials.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the client is a web browser and
2 the act of obtaining comprises obtaining credentials using a cookie provided by
3 the web browser.

1 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the act of retrieving comprises
2 retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and the act of presenting
3 comprises presenting the web page to a web browser.

1 11. A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:
2 acquiring a client's access request for a production device;
3 obtaining credentials from the client;
4 upon verification of the credentials, retrieving an interface from the
5 production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting
6 production options for a document;
7 presenting the interface to the client;
8 placing production data in a queue, the production data representing
9 selected production options and access instructions for the document;
10 providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing the
11 production data in the queue; and
12 returning production data from the queue to the production device.

1 12. A computer program product for mediating access to production
2 devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer
3 readable instructions thereon for:
4 acquiring an access request for a production device;
5 retrieving an interface from the production device, the interface having
6 user accessible controls for selecting production options for a document;
7 presenting the interface to a client; and

8   returning to the production device production options selected through
9   the interface.

1   13.   The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for acquiring
2   include instructions for intercepting an access request directed to the production
3   device.

1   14.   The product of Claim 12, wherein instructions for acquiring include
2   instructions for redirecting the access request.

1   15.   The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for retrieving
2   and presenting comprise instructions for retrieving and presenting from a device
3   other than the production device.

1   16.   The product of Claim 12, comprising further instructions for placing
2   production data in a queue, the production data representing selected production
3   options and the access instructions for the document, and wherein the
4   instructions for returning comprise instructions for returning the production data
5   from the queue.

1   17.   The product of Claim 16, further comprising instructions for
2   providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing production
3   data in the queue.

1   18.   The product of Claim 12, further comprising instructions for
2   providing an interface having controls for displaying the status of the production
3   device.

1   19.   The product of Claim 12, comprising further instructions for
2   obtaining and verifying credentials and wherein the instructions for presenting
3   comprise instructions for presenting the interface only upon verification of the
4   credentials.

1   20.   The product of Claim 19, wherein the client is a web browser and
2 the instructions for obtaining comprise instructions for obtaining the credentials
3 using a cookie provided by the web browser.

1   21.   The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for retrieving
2 comprises instructions for retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and
3 the instructions for presenting comprises instructions for presenting the web
4 page to a web browser.

1   22.   A computer program product for mediating access to production
2 devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer
3 readable instructions thereon for:
4   receiving a client's access request for a production device;
5   obtaining credentials from the client;
6   upon verification of the credentials, retrieving an interface from the
7 production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting
8 production options for a document;
9   presenting the interface to the client;
10   placing production data in a queue, the production data representing
11 selected production options and access instructions for the document;
12   providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing the
13 production data in the queue; and
14   returning production data from the queue to the production device.

1   23.   In a computer network, a system for managing electronic
2 document production, the system comprising:
3   one or more production devices;
4   a client operable to identify a target document, issue an access request
5 for a selected production device, and select production options;
6   a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the
7 production device or devices, the mediation service operable to acquire the
8 access request for the selected production device; retrieve an interface for the

9   selected production device, the interface having user accessible controls for

10   selecting production options for the target document; present the interface to

11   the client; and return selected production options with access instructions for

12   the target document to the selected production device.

1   24.   The system of Claim 23 wherein the interface is a web page and

2   the client is a web browser.

1   25.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the mediation service includes:

2   an interface conduit operable to mediate communication between the

3   client and the selected production device; and

4   a production engine operable to manage the return of the selected

5   production options and access instructions for the target document to the

6   selected production device.

1   26. The system of Claim 23, wherein the mediation service includes a

2   permission engine operable to limit the mediation service to returning the

3   interface to a client presenting verified credentials.

1   27. The system of Claim 25, wherein the production engine includes:

2   a queue operable to provide a holding bin for the returned production

3   options and access instructions;

4   a production manager operable to manage the queue; and

5   an interface generator operable to provide the client with an interface

6   having user accessible controls for directing the production manager.

1   28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the interface generator is a web

2   server and the interface the web server provides is a web page having a network

3   address accessible by a web browser.

1   29.   In a computer network, a system for managing electronic

2   document production, the system comprising:

3   one or more production devices;

4   a client operable to identify a target document, issue an access request

5 for a selected production device, and select production options;

6   an interface conduit operable to mediate communication between the

7 client and the selected production device;

8   a permission engine operable to limit the mediation service to returning

9 the interface to a client presenting verified credentials;

10   a queue operable to provide a holding bin for the returned production

11 options and access instructions;

12   a production manager operable to manage the queue; and

13   an interface generator operable to provide the client with an interface

14 having user accessible controls for directing the production manager.